



**Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Beach Club Resort**

Page 9



**Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food**

Page 8

# ARUBA TODAY

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

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Page 10

## Report: 119K people hurt by riot-control weapons since 2015

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

**SALEM, Ore. (AP)** — More than 119,000 people have been injured by tear gas and other chemical irritants around the world since 2015 and some 2,000 suffered injuries from “less lethal” impact projectiles, according to a report released Wednesday.

Physicians for Human Rights and the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations, which produced the report, called it “the most comprehensive study on crowd-control weapons to date.”

The report on casualties from a largely unregulated industry cites an alarming evolution of crowd-control devices into more powerful and indiscriminate designs and deployment, including dropping tear gas from drones.



Federal officers launch tear gas at a group of demonstrators during a Black Lives Matter protest at the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland, Ore., on July 26, 2020.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2



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## Report: 119K people hurt by riot-control weapons since 2015

Continued from front

Produced in collaboration with the Omega Research Foundation, the report took 2 1/2 years to compile and used medical literature. Some of the injuries were fatal but it was impossible from the data to estimate the total number of deaths, said the report's lead author, Rohini Haar, an emergency room physician and researcher at the University of California School of Public Health in Berkeley.

The vast majority of the data comes from cases in which a person came to an emergency room with injuries from crowd-control weapons and the attending doctor or hospital staff made the effort to document it, Haar said in an interview.

The report calls for bans of rubber bullets and of multi-projectile devices in all crowd-control settings and tighter restrictions on weapons that may be used indiscriminately, such as tear gas, acoustic weapons and water cannons, which in some cases have been loaded with dyes and



**A demonstrator hides under a barrier as federal officers release tear gas during a Black Lives Matter protest at the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse, July 29, 2020, in Portland, Ore.**  
Associated Press

chemical irritants. Governments should also ensure these weapons are subject to rigorous independent testing, with testing, evaluation and approval involving law enforcement, technical specialists and health professionals, among others, the report said.

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, a

Democrat from Oregon, said the study underscores serious issues.

"These troubling global numbers echo the concerns I raised locally when Donald Trump first dispatched armed troops to Portland in 2020 with no guidance on their use of chemical munitions near

schools and against protesters when most were peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights," Wyden said. "The report's recommendations are very worthy of consideration by the Department of Homeland Security."

Portland, Oregon, was an epicenter of racial justice protests after the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police in May 2020. Police and protesters clashed, with officers firing tear gas, pepper spray and other devices, turning parts of the city into battle grounds. Then-President Trump sent militarized federal agents to protect federal property and the violence escalated, with agents dousing the crowds with tear gas and other irritants. Bystanders and nearby residents choked on the fumes, their eyes watering and burning. Some protesters launched fireworks at agents and shined lasers in their eyes. Portland Police Bureau spokesperson Terri Wallo Strauss noted that the department's updated policy emphasizes "the goal of avoiding the use of force, when feasible."

This month alone, crowd-control weapons were used in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Greece, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Italy, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey and the United States, the rights groups said. □



**National Security Council spokesman John Kirby speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, March 21, 2023.**

Associated Press

By AAMER MADHANI and ZEKE MILLER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

## U.S. review of Afghanistan withdrawal to be released in April

results of the long-delayed government review of the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan will be released next month, the White House announced Wednesday, with Congress and the public set to see an assessment of what went wrong as America ended its longest war.

The August 2021 pullout of U.S. troops led to the swift collapse of the Afghan government and military,

which the U.S. had supported for nearly two decades, and the return to power of the Taliban. In the aftermath, President Joe Biden directed that a broad review examine "every aspect of this from top to bottom."

It was originally set to be released at the one-year anniversary of the withdrawal but was delayed while agencies continued their work.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Wednesday that the work was nearly complete and that the administration was readying the release next month.

"We expect to be able to share those takeaways with the public by mid-April," Kirby said. He said the administration would share classified sections of the report with congressional oversight committees. □



## Americans' faith in banks low after failures: AP-NORC poll

By **PAUL WISEMAN** and  
**HANNAH FINGERHUT**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Only 10% of U.S. adults say they have high confidence in the nation's banks and other financial institutions, a new poll finds. That's down from the 22% who said they had high confidence in 2020.

Following the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank this month, the poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research also finds that a majority say the government is not doing enough to regulate the industry.

The underwhelming assessment of America's banks and bank regulation comes after a series of shocks brought back disturbing memories of the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

Silicon Valley Bank, the nation's 16th-biggest, failed March 10 after making risky bets in the bond market. Two days later, regulators closed New York-based Signature Bank, which had gotten involved in cryptocurrencies. Across the Atlantic Ocean, long-troubled Credit Suisse was acquired by rival UBS on Sunday in a shotgun marriage designed to restore confidence in global financial institutions.

In the United States, the tumult has raised questions among policymakers about 2018 legislation that rolled back strict regula-



**A law enforcement official, behind, stands in an entryway to a Silicon Valley Bank branch location, March 13, 2023, as customers and bystanders line up outside the bank, in Wellesley, Mass.**

Associated Press

tions put in place after the financial crisis.

The poll suggests the U.S. public shares that concern: 56% say the government isn't doing enough to regulate banks and other financial institutions, while 27% say it's doing the right amount and 15% say it's regulating too much. The worry about under-regulation is bipartisan: 63% of Democrats say current bank regulation is insufficient, as do 51% of Republicans.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Philip Metscher, 53, a stay-at-home father of seven in Sacramento, California, said he has little faith in bankers or the government

agencies that are supposed to regulate them.

"It's like they have free rein to do whatever they want with money," said Metscher, a Republican. The poll finds that in addition to the 10% of Americans saying that they have high confidence in the nation's banking institutions, 57% do have some confidence; 31% have hardly any.

Though confidence in banks and financial institutions has decreased even since the last time that question was asked on an AP-NORC poll in 2020, low confidence among Americans in their public institutions is nothing new — the

General Social Survey, which has tracked trends in public opinion for decades, shows that confidence in institutions ranging from the financial industry to organized religion and from the news media to Congress has declined substantially since the 1970s. The new poll shows few Americans have high confidence in any branch of the U.S. government.

There's been little change in the already glum assessment of the U.S. economy since a month ago, before the recent banking system turmoil, the poll shows. Only a quarter say national economic conditions are good; three quarters call

them poor.

But 43% of Democrats call the economy good, versus just 7% of Republicans.

About half of U.S. adults describe their personal financial situations as good, a drop from last year when about 6 in 10 said that. About 6 in 10 Democrats and about half of Republicans give positive assessments of their current finances.

With a Democrat in the White House, Republicans are more likely than Democrats (36% versus 15%) to say their finances will get worse over the next year; 38% of Democrats say they expect their finances to improve, versus 22% of Republicans.

Overall, about half of U.S. adults expect U.S. economic conditions to deteriorate over the next year. Again, there's a political divide: About three-quarters of Republicans but only a third of Democrats expect the national economy to worsen. American households have been hit hard by inflation, which began to pick up in the spring of 2021. Adjusted for inflation, U.S. hourly wages have fallen for 23 straight months compared to a year earlier.

"You never know what's going on. It's paycheck to paycheck," said Metscher in Sacramento. "I'm looking at food prices, gas prices. It reminds me of being a kid growing up" during the high-inflation 1970s. □

## More deaths, injuries linked to recalled eyedrops

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. officials are reporting two more deaths and additional cases of vision loss linked to eyedrops tainted with a drug-resistant bacteria.

The eyedrops from EzriCare and Delsam Phama were recalled in February and health authorities are continuing to track infections as they investigate the outbreak.

In the latest government tally, 68 people were diagnosed with infections from the bacteria, which has now caused a total of three deaths and eight

cases of people losing their vision, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Tuesday. That's up from one death and five cases of permanent vision loss reported last month.

The CDC said four people have undergone surgery to remove an eyeball due to the infections.

The outbreak is considered particularly worrisome because the bacteria driving it is resistant to standard antibiotics.

The CDC has now identified cases in 16 states, including

California, New York, Illinois, Texas and Pennsylvania. Most of the cases have been linked to four regional clusters and EzriCare's drops are the only product used by patients in each of those groups.

The recalled drops were manufactured by Global Pharma Healthcare in India, where the bacteria — *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* — is commonly linked to outbreaks in hospitals. It can spread through contaminated hands or medical equipment. □



**This scanning electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows rod-shaped *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria.**

Associated Press



# Nevada to add gas plant as drought tests U.S. West power grids

By RIO YAMAT

Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Utility regulators in Nevada gave the state's largest power provider clearance to start work on a \$333 million project to build a natural gas plant in the state for the first time in nearly 15 years, signaling yet another consequence of the extreme drought conditions in the southwestern U.S.

The two gas-fired turbines to be erected north of Las Vegas by NV Energy are expected to come online by July 2024 amid hotter summers and longer wild-fire seasons in a state that aims to have a carbon-free power grid by 2050.

Nevada's Public Utilities Commission approved the plans last week. It said the turbines are needed to address peak electricity demand in the summer months, as ever-drying conditions in the West continue to stress the region's power grids and slash hydroelectric output, including the behemoth power producers on the Colorado River the Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam.

But environmental advocates have argued that the turbines mark a major step backwards for Nevada's climate goals.



In this undated photo provided by NV Energy is the Silverhawk Generating Station north of Las Vegas.

"Both the state and the utility have set strong goals to transition to renewable energy," said Angelyn Tabalba, a spokesperson for the Nevada Conservation League. "Instead of doubling down on fossil fuels, they should be leaning into a clean energy future."

Mike O'Boyle, senior director of electricity policy at the Bay Area-based Energy Innovation firm, said the commission's decision underscores a growing tension across the American Southwest.

"We've always dealt with annual variability when it comes to hydroelectric power in the West. How much of it we have really depends on the snowpack and what happened in the winter and spring," O'Boyle said. "It's not a new issue, but it's been exacerbated by the drought. Unfortunately it's a new major contingency that utility providers have to plan for."

At least 21 other states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have goals to reach 100%

clean energy between 2040 and 2050, according to the Clean Energy States Alliance.

But as those deadlines approach, scientists say the megadrought gripping the southwest is the worst in 1,200 years, putting a deep strain on the Colorado River. If states don't begin taking less out of the river, major reservoirs threaten to fall so low they can't produce hydropower or supply any water to farms that grow crops for the rest of the nation and cities like

Associated Press

Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Phoenix. Last March, for example, Lake Powell in Utah and Arizona dipped below a critical threshold, raising new concerns about the Glen Canyon Dam, a source of power that millions of people in the West rely on for electricity. If power production ceases at the dam, rural electric cooperatives, cities and tribal utilities would be forced to seek more expensive options that could include fossil fuels.

Already, Nevada has retired its largest coal plant, while the North Valmy coal plant is scheduled to shut down its remaining units by 2025. About 60% of Nevada is now powered by natural gas and 30% by renewable energy resources.

Natural gas is composed primarily of methane, a greenhouse gas about 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. But NV Energy said the turbines will have minimal carbon dioxide emissions because they will only operate in the summer months — or for about 700 hours annually — and therefore won't hinder the state's carbon-free goals. □

# Endangered status sought for gopher tortoise in 4 states

By CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)** — Gopher tortoises imperiled by loss of habitat largely caused by human devel-



This photo provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service shows a gopher tortoise at San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park in Gainesville, Fla.

Associated Press

opment should be placed on the endangered species list in four southern states, environmental groups said Wednesday as they prepared to sue the federal

government over the issue. The Center for Biological Diversity and Nokuse Education filed a notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over its decision last year not to list the gopher tortoise as endangered or threatened in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and eastern Alabama.

The center noted there are some state-level protections for the burrowing tortoises but those generally require the animals to be moved from a development site and do not protect their habitat overall. The tortoises have lost 97% of the longleaf pine savannas where they lived for millions of years in the South.

"Without lifesaving Endangered Species Act protection for our gopher tortoises, urban sprawl will keep driving them ever closer to extinction," said attorney Elise Bennett, the center's Florida director.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has projected that 75% of the current gopher tortoise population will be lost by 2100. The burrows they dig with shovel-like front legs, which can extend 30 feet (9 meters) underground, also support an estimated 360 other species that use them.

The tortoises are listed as endangered in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and western Alabama but efforts to list them in their eastern

range have proved futile. The Fish and Wildlife Service concluded in October 2022 that "the risk factors acting on the gopher tortoise and its habitat, either singly or in combination, are not of sufficient imminence, scope, or magnitude" to warrant threatened or endangered status. That decision led to the pending lawsuit.

Gopher tortoises once inhabited more than 92 million acres (37 million hectares) of land in the southeastern U.S. but now have only a fraction of that space due to human development, agriculture, climate change, invasive species and other issues, according to the center's lawsuit notice. □



# Netanyahu seeks to soothe U.S. concerns over settlement repeal

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to back down on Wednesday, saying his government has no intention of returning to four abandoned settlements in the occupied West Bank under a law that was repealed by parliament this week. His statement followed harsh U.S. criticism and an international uproar over Netanyahu's far-right government, the country's most hard-line ever, over the Knesset vote early Tuesday to revoke a 2005 law that dismantled the four settlements. The Biden administration summoned Israel's ambassador in Washington hours after the vote a rare rebuke between the allies. Jordan's parliament, meanwhile, in a largely symbolic vote, approved the expulsion of Israel's envoy over the conduct of a firebrand minister. Netanyahu said the Knesset vote on Tuesday ended a period that discriminated against and humiliated Jews by not allowing them to live in "northern Samaria," using the biblical term for the West Bank.



Israelis, mostly military reservists, protest against plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to overhaul the judicial system, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Associated Press

"That said," he said, "the government has no intention to build new settlements in these areas." U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman expressed America's concern to Israeli Ambassador Michael Herzog in Washington over the Knesset's vote. Just days earlier, Israel had pledged not to approve new settlement construction or take unilateral actions. Since the 2005 law, Israeli citizens have been officially banned from returning to the four loca-

tions, though the Israeli military has allowed activists to visit and pray there. Critics fear the vote could clear the way for rebuilding the four settlements, abandoned nearly 20 years ago when Israeli forces pulled out of the Gaza Strip, and further set back Palestinian hopes for statehood. Sherman and Herzog discussed "the importance of all parties refraining from actions or rhetoric that could further inflame tensions leading into the Ramadan, Passover, and East-

ter holidays," the U.S. State Department said. Pressure against Israel's new government mounted further Wednesday as the Jordanian parliament voted to expel Israel's ambassador over Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich's speech at a podium adorned with a map of Israel that purportedly included Jordan. The incident over the weekend, the parliament in Amman said, "reflects Israeli arrogance that does not respect international treaties and covenants." □

# Ethiopian lawmakers remove Tigray group from terror list

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — Ethiopian lawmakers have removed the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front from the country's list of designated terror groups more than four months after a peace agreement ended a conflict that killed hundreds of thousands of people. Wednesday's decision highlights the improving relations between federal officials and Tigray regional ones and moves the region closer to the establishment of an interim government. The TPLF dominated Ethiopian politics for close to three decades before Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office in 2018. The Ti-

gray conflict began in late 2020. Most of Ethiopia's 547 lawmakers voted to remove

the TPLF from the terror list, with 61 objections and five abstentions, according to the state-run Ethiopian



Fighters loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) walk along a street in the town of Hawzen, then controlled by the group, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia on May 7, 2021. Associated Press

Broadcasting Corporation. The TPLF was added to the list in May 2012. Kindeya Gebrehiwot, a senior TPLF official, told The Associated Press the removal will be a "very good step in moving the peace agreement forward." Ethiopia accused the TPLF of starting the conflict by attacking an army base in Tigray, while the TPLF accused the federal government of preparing to strike first. The peace agreement signed in November has led to the return of communications, banking and other basic services cut to the Tigray region of more than 5 million people. □

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# A quarter of world population lacks safe drinking water: U.N.

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — A report issued on the eve of the first major U.N. conference on water in over 45 years says 26% of the world's population doesn't have access to safe drinking water and 46% lacks access to basic sanitation. The U.N. World Water Development Report 2023, released Tuesday, painted a stark picture of the huge gap that needs to be filled to meet U.N. goals to ensure all people have access to clean water and sanitation by 2030.

Richard Connor, editor-in-chief of the report, told a news conference that the estimated cost of meeting the goals is between \$600 billion and \$1 trillion a year. But equally important, Connor said, is forging partnerships with investors, financiers, governments and climate change communities to ensure that money is invested in ways to sustain the environment and provide potable water to the 2 billion people who don't have it and sanitation to the 3.6 billion in need.



**A man fills cans with water from a water tank vendor at the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya Tuesday, March 21, 2023.**

According to the report, water use has been increasing globally by roughly 1% per year over the last 40 years "and is expected to grow at a similar rate through to 2050, driven by a combination of population growth, socio-economic development and changing consumption patterns." Connor said that actual

increase in demand is happening in developing countries and emerging economies where it is driven by industrial growth and especially the rapid increase in the population of cities. It is in these urban areas "that you're having a real big increase in demand," he said. With agriculture using 70%

of all water globally, Connor said, irrigation for crops has to be more efficient as it is in some countries that now use drip irrigation, which saves water. "That allows water to be available to cities," he said. As a result of climate change, the report said, "seasonal water scarcity will increase in regions

where it is currently abundant such as Central Africa, East Asia and parts of South America and worsen in regions where water is already in short supply, such as the Middle East and the Sahara in Africa." On average, "10% of the global population lives in countries with high or critical water stress" and up to 3.5 billion people live under conditions of water stress at least one month a year, said the report issued by UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Since 2000, floods in the tropics have quadrupled while floods in the north mid-latitudes have increased 2.5-fold, the report said. Trends in droughts are more difficult to establish, it said, "although an increase in intensity or frequency of droughts and 'heat extremes' can be expected in most regions as a direct result of climate change." "Globally, 80% of wastewater is released to the environment without any treatment," he said, "and in many developing countries it's pretty much 99%." □

Associated Press

# Brazil police foil gang plot targeting Carwash judge Moro

By LAÍS MARTINS

Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Federal police raided locations in several states Wednesday to crack down on a gang accused of plotting assassi-

nations and kidnappings of public officials including a former judge who presided over Brazil's biggest corruption case. One of the suspects' targets was Sen. Sérgio Moro,

who as a judge presided over the Carwash bribery and money laundering investigation that began in 2014, Justice Minister Flávio Dino told reporters in Sao Paulo. The suspects had rented out houses near Moro's home and office in Parana's capital, Curitiba, and had erected walls to create rooms that could be used for stowing hostages, he said. Dino told reporters that authorities are investigating whether the criminals intended to kill or kidnap Moro. The operation was launched Wednesday because investigators determined the suspects were already setting up teams to execute their plans, he added. Moro said on Twitter he had been targeted for retaliation by one of Brazil's most

notorious drug trafficking gangs, known as the First Capital Command. He thanked the police forces and said he would issue a statement later Wednesday. From 2014 to 2018, Moro was the lead judge in the Carwash trials, which led to the arrest of prominent politicians including then former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who spent over a year in jail. Lula's conviction was later annulled. In 2019, Moro became former President Jair Bolsonaro's Justice Minister, and quickly oversaw the transfer of the First Capital Command's leader and almost two dozen gang members to federal prison. Moro left the government in April 2020 and secured a Senate seat in last year's general elections. Lula was

also elected president. Federal police last year investigated a plan by the First Capital Command to kidnap federal public servants, aiming to exchange them for the release of Marco Willians Camacho, the gang's imprisoned leader, according to a report from online media UOL. Federal Police said in their statement Wednesday that the criminals aimed to use their kidnapped hostages for extortion. Wednesday's police operation entailed 120 agents carrying out 24 search and seizure warrants and 11 arrest warrants in the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Mato Grosso do Sul and Rondonia, police said in a statement, which did not name the suspects nor their intended targets. □



**A poster shows former Federal Judge and former Justice Minister Sergio Moro before a ceremony where he will join the Podemos party and present his intention to run in the 2022 presidential election in Brasilia, Brazil, Nov. 10, 2021.**

Associated Press



## Aruba attends the UN Water Conference 2023

**(Oranjestad)—From March 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>, the Aruban delegacion will be representing the island's nature during the water conference in New York. This year, the United Nations Water Conference is being co-organized by the Netherlands and Tajikistan.**

The goal of this conference is to gather stakeholders from different sectors to accelerate the implementation of water policies and to improve the impact of the challenges surrounding water around the world. The three principles that guide the conference is inclusivity, taking action and

intersectoral collaborations.

We survive on water. It is an essential resource that is crucial for the well-being of people, energy and food production, a healthy ecosystem, climate adaptation, reduction of poverty etc. Water is central when it comes to sustainable developments, but contamination and excessive use of our water resources has brought negative consequences for people's health, ecosystems and economic activity. Access to clean water is a basic human right. Even so, there all millions of people around

the world that still do not have access to water. This requires urgent action from leaders around the world to guaranty sustainable distribution of water for all basic human needs.

In Aruba, we have to remember that our water resource is our ocean; the ocean that not only surrounds us, but that also connects us with the world around us. That is why it is important to know and understand the challenges that other countries face and to also establish collaborative goals, especially with the other islands in the Caribbean. That way, re-



sponsible actions can be taken to bring sustainable solutions.

Minister Ursell Arends (Nature), along with Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes

is currently participating in the different sessions, where they will discuss the compromises Aruba made with the UN for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). □

## Educational screening report: cooperation and exchange of knowledge in the region and amongst countries in the Dutch kingdom is a good idea

**Since February of 2021, Inspection of Education in Aruba and The Netherlands began their study on the quality of education in Aruba. In the report "Screening Report", 13 recommendations were brought to attention for improving the quality of education on the island.**

A team of investigators began the evaluation of the quality of education in Aruba based on 3 central research questions related to the basic functions of education: qualification, socialization and assignment; the conditions that make these basic functions and the management of these functions possible.

The report indicates that recommendations intended for the improvement of education and the fortification of the educational system became operational in one key point. Firstly, concrete agreements have been made to promote the connection between

education and the labor market, like for example, the collecting of data surrounding the needs of the labor market on Aruba and the organization Platform Education and Labor (PEL), and its responsibilities.

For a better definition of the recommendations of the system, the team developed an agenda of implementation for 3 themes: finance, government and legislation. To further elaborate on this, plans about the financial system, the supervision of the budget, the organization of the public schools and the actualization of educational legislation are all included.

The recommendations and different in nature, and some require translation to a specific focus and in the phases of the agenda. At the same time, the report further explains that there are parts of the recommendation that can be implemented sooner and could alleviate the pressure on the educational system for the time being.

Two examples include: 1. support for teachers through, for example, the deployment of (additional) internal supervising teachers and recovery teacher; 2. Offer access the focus on preschools and crèches as part of the continuous line of education.

An important focal point that is mentioned in the elaboration of the recommendations is the available staff to be able to implement this.

Recommendations in terms of qualified staff, necessary knowledge and good management, and specialties during moments where legislations are implemented—for all these recommendations, available staff is limited.

Besides the phases of the agenda, the team points out that a good idea would be to explore the opportunities for cooperation and exchange of knowledge within the region and amongst countries within the Dutch Kingdom. Kibrahacha—which is an educational association in the Caribbean—is an example of these kinds of cooperation. Cooperation between institutions in the region could also provide great results.

In terms of the financial consequences of these recommendations, this has not yet been specified. Regardless, the team has this to say about the financial coverage of these measures in the report:

First of all, not all recommendations cost money. In this sense, the recommendation for the government of adopting a professionally organized structure in which exists a separation between management and supervision with strong directors, good internal supervision and employee participation is crucial.

This way, the gap between management and supervision and the usage of resources is smaller and thus improvement and investment

in the system is optimized. Some examples include making decisions for limiting school costs in general, the investment in skills and supervision of teachers, building maintenance etc. This also includes accountability for the internal supervision and participation, making it visible how these decisions contribute to better education.

Additionally, the team thinks it is important if, for example, there is money available in the 'Landspakket' (Budget given by The Netherlands for the islands in the Dutch kingdom). This will also be relevant in the necessary investment of education on the island: "A precise justification is necessary in the agenda, because aimless investments give less desirable results."

Finally, the report states that it is important to structure appropriately and to use the long term financial consequences of the demographic tendencies. On one hand, this is how the effects of the number of schools and the amount of territory that is needed for them. On the other hand, the finance, which is the results of the number of students and their contribution, keeps the long term calculations stable.

It has also been noted that the decrease in students results in a higher contribution from each student. This is only effective if the measures for improvement proposed in the report are simultaneously implemented. □





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## Papillon: The butterfly effect of magnificent food



**PALM BEACH —** Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the restrooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. As our special guest you can choose to dine inside our heartwarming airconditioned restaurant or we also offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with great ambiance of the surroundings. Perfect setting for an enjoyable time people watching while sipping on a delicious cocktail.

### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual, then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi



beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

### Let the music play!

Another reason to visit us is our Live Entertainment Schedule all through the week.

Get all cozy and warmed up on Sundays and Mondays by Marisella and her enchanting acoustic tunes accompanied by percussion only.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Jairo will give you a real Saxophone treat while on Wednesday you can sit back, relax and enjoy your dinner while DJ Jason brings you the most smooth jazz and lounge music for a dreamy night. The musicians interact with the guests & requests can be sent in.

The live tunes definitely add to the experience.

### Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too”. What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back

restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome!

### Chef’s Garden 6 course dinner by Papillon

Our one of a kind executive chef Juan Ludena gets extra creative outside the kitchen of Papillon Restaurant. Serving a 6 course surprise menu featuring his International flavors and creativity with refined dishes, chef Juan Ludena is determined to give you a night to remember. Wine pairing is optional. The chef’s secret garden is located in a local replica of the Aruba traditional ‘cunucu’ house. The tropical garden is the setting for a magical in-home private dining experience.

**For more information about this magnificent option, please send us an email or ask our wait staff.**

Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

### Make your reservation today at:

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**Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Beach Club Resort**

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized the Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Emerald certification as a token of appreciation. The Emerald certification is granted to ambassadors to recognize, their loyalty, friendship, and visits to the island of Aruba. Emerald Honorees has been choosing Aruba as her preferred vacation destination for more than 35 years consecutively. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island.

**Honoring Levels:**

- Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years
- Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years
- Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

**Honorees were:**

Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years:

Harry & Karen (Kandy) Cottrillare residents of South Carolina, United States (have been coming to Aruba for 36 years consecutively).

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Aruba Beach Club bestowed the certification of the Emerald Ambassador. The honorees were presented with the Emerald Ambassador Certificate and memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Cottrill for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had a such incredible visitors all these years! Mr. & Mrs. Cottrill Aruba is unquestionably her home away from home!

The top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honoree were:

**Harry & Karen Cottrill's reasons:**

1. Wonderful weather, lovely beaches
2. Friendly locals
3. Seeing friends, we made over the years
4. Great fishing (deep sea) + Snorkeling
5. Activities for all ages



**beauty & THE BEACH**

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Chad and Eric from Massachusetts, USA**. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

Alhambra CASINO AND SHOPS casinoalhambra.com



## Own a piece of paradise with Porta Al Sole



The Porta Al Sole luxury fully furnished townhouses are located in the upscale neighborhood area of Bakval, Noord. They are just 8 to 10 minutes walk from the highrise hotels and the beautiful beaches of Aruba. All luxury townhouses have three floors, with your own private terrace and a BBQ station located on the top floor.

This new and exclusive development with luxurious interior design, offers only 20 Unique townhouses. The townhouses are made with excellent quality in construction as well as finishing touches. Also a beautiful sparkling private pool area between the breathtaking landscape grounds with a sense of peace in our gated community area. Each townhouse is built on property land.

Get your own vacation home in paradise, or you can own it and rent it out. These townhouses could make for a lucrative income stream while also allowing you to have fantastic access to the beautiful island of Aruba and all its beauty.

The townhouses are selling fast as Aruba is growing into a premier travel destination.

Each townhouse features 3 Floors Per Unit, 3 bedroom, 2 Half bathroom and 2 Full Bathroom, Private Terrace & BBQ, own laundry room, Mini Market, Gym, and a gorgeous Pool area. And you can park in your own front parking space.

For any inquiries, questions or commendations, please call: +297-587.4039 or visit our website [www.portaalsole.com](http://www.portaalsole.com) Be wild and have yourself your own little paradise. ☐



**ORANJESTAD** - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef.

**Tres Trapi**  
Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamento, Papiamento is together with Dutch

## Aruba's underwater wonderland

the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to

prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its port-side in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

### Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent

beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. ☐





## Gershwin Lee: a headmaster who is more like a coach for his students

**The teacher as well as the student are people, and before everything, must be seen as people. That is the philosophy of Gershwin Lee, headmaster of the MAVO school, Colegio San Antonio.**

Lee had just finished supervising a 'strafmiddag' – afternoon detention – when he spoke with our reporter. A group of students unhappy that they had to spend a Friday afternoon at school is not exactly an ideal situation, but the headmaster doesn't let any opportunity go by without connecting with his students. "They feel that the teacher doesn't like them, they told me. Many times it is a teacher who gave them a low grade." And what Lee told them was that by getting lower grades, the children reinforce the bad impression that the teacher might have of them, but the negative consequences fall on them.

He knew of which teacher the kids were talking, someone who has an interest but follows a stricter line. When the headmaster asked the kids why they don't make an effort, the answer was that "I don't want the teacher to think that I'm a teacher's pet". In that moment, Lee gave them a challenge, to ask the teacher directly if he thinks they have a perspective. "I told them that they

will be surprised by the answer, because I'm sure that the teacher will say that he does believe in them, as long as they apply themselves."

After the conversation, Lee let the kids watch the documentary about gymnast Simone Byles, who despite having addicts as parents who couldn't give attention to their child; she was adopted by her grandparents. "The difference is the mindset. The idea was for the children to realize that trauma doesn't need to be an obstacle. Everyone has trauma. A child who gets screamed at by a teacher when he was in first grade because he couldn't read well will be left with trauma. The point is how you deal with trauma."

Perhaps the most surprising aspect is that Gershwin Lee told the students that he also experienced a challenging youth. His father, the late Atan Lee was an extremely strict parent who didn't hesitate to use physical discipline and demanded perfection at school from his children. Gershwin as the older of three would rebel. His grades in MAVO were nothing to be proud of, and his rebellion continued until after finishing HBO (Dutch equivalent to college). His father dreamed of his son receiving the title 'drs', and Lee got all the way to his thesis and then

decided not to do it. He informed his father, who was obviously disappointed, and then moved to Spain where he obtained his Masters in Business Administration with specialization in marketing and public relations.

The trajectory however made Lee realize why his father was so focused on his children's achievements. "My father grew up poor in a big family. A male child of Chinese heritage, who was a victim of bullying, managed to overcome and wanted the best for his children. He couldn't believe it himself how much he achieved. No one believed in him when he was a child."

The realization that his father's demands were the result of trauma allowed Gershwin to accept that the disciplinarian was simply a father who loved him and wanted the best for him.

And these stories, Lee tells them to the students of Colegio San Antonio. This however does not mean that it's not necessary to recognize the difficulty that some students are going through, because often, the attitude and arrogance of some students hides the lack of a parent's love, or the fact that the family is poor. Such attitudes are reflected in the results, and sometimes parents have a hard time understanding this. Gershwin applies the same human approach with the parents, some of whom sometimes come to school very angry.

From the start, ever since he was a teacher, Gershwin noticed that the best way to see the student, the parent, or the colleague is first as a person, holistically. For this reason also it is important for Gershwin to have personal contact with parents, to really get to know them. And he asks all of them the same question: "How was your day yesterday? How are you this morning, what did



you have to eat?" This way of showing interest tears down walls and allows him to come closer to people, in order to reach the core of any conflict. A student (who is not a 'repeat client') who approaches him because the teacher kicked him out of school will not get scolded, but will be approached by a person who wants to know more about the life of the student. "I see what his fears, doubts and complexes are, if he is afraid."

The way in which Gershwin Lee deals with people is thus more like a coach than a strict disciplinarian. He doesn't leave out that there are rules to be followed, but in order to demand adherence, Lee believes it is essential to motivate the student as well as the teacher so that both want to work on improvement.

It might be part of his personality, but Gershwin Lee explains that from early on he realized the importance of a different approach, and he followed all cours-

es and training possible in this area, from Conscious Discipline to yoga, which provide techniques to help anyone breathe in and calm down.

The results can be seen, because Colegio San Antonio already has years on top of the list of schools with a better percentage of graduates. But this is not what motivates the headmaster. "If you take the first exam period from last year, our school was the one with the worst results. There was the possibility for every student to drop their lowest grade (an arrangement due to the pandemic) and still graduate. But I told them to still take the second chance exam and improve their grade."

The headmaster motivated his students to believe in themselves and assured them that they will graduate. The result of the school in itself was not important for Lee. Rather, his objective was for the students to grow and realize their potential and be happy people, an approach that is proven to work. □





**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Sells for
- 6 Trait carriers
- 11 Cashew family tree
- 12 Glorify
- 13 Bakery come-on
- 14 "Lassie" boy
- 15 Friend of Fozzie
- 17 Wisdom bringer
- 19 Set fire to
- 20 Easy victim
- 23 Moves like a crab
- 25 High point
- 26 Ironed
- 28 Aussie birds
- 29 Go by
- 30 Match part
- 31 Vaccine shot
- 32 Poetic "always"
- 33 Playwright Pinter
- 35 Heathen
- 38 One a-courting
- 41 Blow away
- 42 Dodge
- 43 Himalayan land
- 44 Bit of info

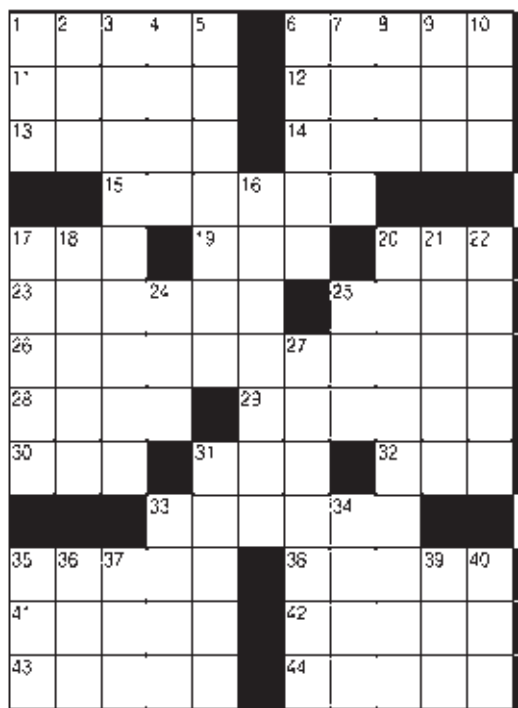
**DOWN**

- 1 Robert E. Lee's org.
- 2 "— Town"
- 3 Forced from a hiding place
- 4 Not wild
- 5 Bright hue
- 6 "Understand?"
- 7 Way to go
- 8 "Platoon" setting
- 9 Avenue tree
- 10 Pig's place
- 16 Get wrong, in a way
- 17 Cart pullers



Yesterday's answer

- 18 "I want that!"
- 20 Eye-balled
- 21 Tickle
- 22 Friend of Wendy
- 24 — Alamos
- 25 Nabokov novel
- 27 Nudged
- 31 Leigh of "Psycho"
- 33 Mist
- 34 "Damn Yankees" role
- 35 Con-trived
- 36 French friend
- 37 Chatter
- 39 Part of a prof's address
- 40 "Stand" band



3-23

A XYDI B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-23

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

SZHG YJKG CZT OZLQZHQ GZ  
ATKHU RZV CXZYQTO. DXJHG  
RZVT ZYH UJTSQH JHS  
SQEZTJGQ RZVT ZYH OZVX.  
— XVGWQT AVTAJHB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE ONLY SUBJECT I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IS MYSELF, AND I DON'T KNOW THAT TOO CLEARLY. — WILLIAM SHATNER

**Liz Weston: Should you rent in retirement?**



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

**By LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet**

Some people rent in retirement because they don't have much choice; they can't afford to own homes. But financial planners say renting can make more sense than owning in some circumstances, even for retirees who can afford the costs of homeownership.

Renting offers flexibility as well as freedom from all the chores and expenses of maintaining a home. Renting also may provide built-in communities for socializing, as well as accessible housing features such as one-floor living, which can help people age in place. People who are "house rich and cash poor" can sell their homes and use the equity to fund a more comfortable lifestyle.

"While retirees often don't want to rent, it can be a smarter decision for a number of reasons," says certified financial planner Lisa A.K. Kirchenbauer of Arlington, Virginia.

**CONSIDER RENTING IF YOU'RE IN TRANSITION**

If you're moving to a new area, financial planners often recommend renting first to get a better feel for the advantages and disadvantages of various neighborhoods. You'll need time to find new doctors, check out entertainment venues, locate favorite restaurants and otherwise set up your support services, says Delia Fernandez, a certified financial planner in Los Alamitos, California.

"It makes sense to rent for maybe even a year so you can really dig into the community and figure out what's going to be the right fit for you," she says. Renting is often smart if you expect to move again within a few years. Buying and selling homes is expensive, and your home may not rise in value fast enough to offset those costs. Selling a home also may take longer than you expect, especially during a real estate downturn, which could add stress, delays and additional costs to your move.

**RENTING COULD HELP YOU AGE MORE SAFELY AND SERENELY**

Few homes are truly accessible to people who have mobility problems or other age-related disabilities, and adapting your current house could be prohibitively expensive. □

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# Despair in Jersey in Zach Braff's 'A Good Person'

All filmmakers should be so lucky to have Florence Pugh in their movies. She so consistently delivers the best version of whatever she's handed whether good, mediocre or downright preposterous that you may even start to wonder if the quality of the film around her really matters in the end. It does, of course, but her performances make whatever she's in difficult to dismiss wholly.

In Zach Braff's "A Good Person," Pugh is a New Jersey 20-something named Allison whose life is upended in a flash. On her way to try on wedding dresses in the city, she's involved in an accident that leaves her future sister- and brother-in-law dead and her addicted to opioid painkillers. Braff wrote the part specifically for her. The two dated for three years, a relationship that was scrutinized by many onlookers for their 21-year age difference, which she often defended. Last year, they quietly broke up. In the past several years, Braff has suffered significant losses his sister, his father, one of his best friends. He is an actor and filmmaker who has directed only four features, including his debut "Garden State," which however it may have aged 19 years later was promising and captured a moment for a specific white hipster set. Now in his mid-40s and a lifetime away from sitcom fame and indie-darling debuts, Braff still has that spark and promise. This time,



This image released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures shows Florence Pugh, left, and Morgan Freeman in a scene from "A Good Person."

he wanted to write about grief, which was the birth of "A Good Person," an ensemble piece about tragedy, mourning, addiction, forgiveness and people who keep messing up despite their best intentions. It takes him back to a familiar area suburban New Jersey and themes (aimlessness and prescription painkillers), but broadens the demographics and scope. And it is so earnestly done, with genuinely good writing and performances, that it seems unduly cruel to nitpick. But, even after reading interviews and Braff's statements, it's still a bit baffling why, with all his lived experience, he has chosen to tell this story about these people.

Allison is just one part of the equation. The other is her fiancé Nathan (Chinaza Uche) and what remains of his family: His 10-years-sober, Vietnam veteran, cop father Daniel (Morgan Freeman) and his orphaned teenage niece Ryan (Celeste O'Connor). What would be a normal teenage rebellion has curdled under the unfathomable rage and sorrow of having suddenly lost both parents. Daniel is out of his depth trying to care for her, while Nathan is largely absent. "A Good Person" seems to belong to a uniquely Dan Fogelman-esque subgenre of hyper sincere melodrama that sometimes clicks ("This Is Us") and other times does not ("Life Itself"). Braff's film

is worlds better than "Life Itself," but there are some similarities in how it strives for cosmic significance and ultimate tearjerking within a construct that the film tries to sell as authentically specific. In execution, it's a bit more strained and contrived.

Allison is a good character for an actor. She's one that was clearly written out of love for the woman he knew would be playing her, allowing Pugh to cry, to sing (the Velvet Underground's "After Hours"), to be funny high and depressing high, to be delusional and selfish in one moment and relatable and true in the next. When Allison finally decides to seek help, she ends up at the same Alcoholics Anon-

ymous meeting as Daniel. She tries to flee, but he encourages her to stay and the two develop a tenuous friendship leading to some nice moments between Pugh and Freeman, who has his own world of regret and guilt to grapple with. This is borderline believable, but things really go off the rails (there is also a forced model train set metaphor) when Allison and Ryan develop their own ill-advised relationship.

"A Good Person" at times feels overstuffed with misery and despair, and oddly decides to fast-forward through the recovery part with a montage and a song. There are clichés (woman on the edge cutting her hair in the mirror) and curious choices (not nearly enough is made of a statutory rape incident) and a very contrived climax. Sometimes it feels like maybe this is a story that could have been better served by a series than a too-long feature (it's telling that I haven't even mentioned that Allison's mom is played by Molly Shannon or that her AA sponsor is Zoe Lister-Jones).

And yet there are enough moments of grace and threads that defy the obvious cliché to keep you interested, even if you're not wholly buying or invested in every character. Who doesn't want to be told that you're never in too deep to start over, to apologize, to forgive or to be honest with yourself and others? □

Associated Press

# Sly Stone book to be released through new Questlove imprint



Rock star Sylvester "Sly" Stone of Sly and the Family Stone, April 1972.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Questlove has his own book imprint and is launching it with a memoir by one of the world's most influential and enigmatic musicians, Sly Stone, leader of Sly and the Family Stone. "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)," named for the Sly and the Family Stone hit, will be released Oct. 17 through Questlove's AUWA Books imprint, part of Macmillan Publishers. The memoir is co-written

by Ben Greenman and will track Stone's rise to the heights of stardom in the late 1960s to his long decline and virtual disappearance from the music scene. "For as long as I can remember folks have been asking me to tell my story," the 80-year-old Stone, who was born Sylvester Stewart, said in a statement Wednesday. "I wasn't ready. I had to be in a new frame

of mind to become Sylvester Stewart again to tell the true story of Sly Stone. It's been a wild ride and hopefully my fans enjoy it too." Other books planned for the AUWA imprint include "Handbook for the Revolution: The Essential Guide for Workplace Organizing," by Amazon Labor Union activist Derrick Palmer and "Hip-Hop Is History," a chronology of hip-hop's first 50 years co-written by Quest-

love and Greenman. "I have been writing books for over a decade, so it seemed like a natural step to publish them too," Questlove said in a statement. A Grammy-winning musician and creator of the Oscar-winning documentary "Summer of Soul," Questlove is also planning a film about Stone, whose other hits include "Dance to the Music" and "Everyday People." □



# Study: Most women's NCAA teams are still coached by men

By STEVE MEGARGEE  
AP Sports Writer

Women comprised less than half the head coaching positions and just over half of the assistant coaching spots for women's college teams in the 2021-22 school year, according to a diversity study released Wednesday.

Women held just 42% of head coaching positions of women's teams in NCAA Division I a slight increase from the previous season as well as 35.6% in Division II and 43.8% in Division III. For all three divisions combined, women filled 41.2% of head coaching positions and 50.3% of assistant coaching positions for women's teams.

The annual report by the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) gave schools a "C" for overall racial and gender hiring practices. But TIDES director and report author Richard Lapchick called the representation of women coaches in women's sports "the most depressing statistic that we report every year." "It doesn't even make any sense to me,



South Carolina head coach Dawn Staley communicates with an official in the second half of a first-round college basketball game against Norfolk State in the NCAA Tournament, Friday, March 17, 2023, in Columbia, S.C.

that nearly 60% of women's teams are coached by men 50 years after the passage of Title IX," Lapchick said, referring to the federal law best known for its role in gender equity in athletics and preventing sexual harassment on campuses. A month earlier, a separate TIDES report showed that the number of women working as athletic directors at Football Bowl Subdivision

programs dropped from 13 to 10 in 2022, with only six of them in Power Five conferences (Duke, Missouri, Pittsburgh, Vanderbilt, Virginia and Washington). From a racial hiring and employment standpoint for coaches, white people continue to fill the vast majority of head coaching positions at all levels. But Wednesday's report did note slight increases in

the percentages of Black head coaches of men's teams between the 2020-21 school year to the 2021-22 school year 9.9% in Division I (up from 9%), 6.6% in Division II (up from 6.2%) and 6.3% in Division III (up from 5.9%). White people hold 84.1% of the men's head coaching positions in Division I, 85.2% in Division II and 89% in Division III. For women's teams, it's

80.6% white head coaches in Division I, 84.5% in Division II and 88.1% in Division III. Those figures represent slight decreases in all three divisions for both men's and women's teams.

In all three divisions, white people made up 70.6% of the men's basketball head coaches, 86.8% of the football head coaches and 92.8% of the baseball head coaches. Lapchick noted that the lack of racial and gender diversity within the athletic director ranks could play a part in the lack of diversity among coaches overall, since athletic directors do much of the hiring. "I'm not saying they're all racist or sexist," Lapchick said. "I'm just saying that the likelihood is they're going to continue to move within the circles that they've moved in, and that's overwhelmingly going to be white men."

Almost 25% of Division I men's basketball head coaches were Black, up from 24.3% in 2020-21 but short of the record high of 25.2% in 2005-06. Black student-athletes made up 52.4% of the Division I men's basketball rosters. □

Associated Press

# NHL players: Crosby most complete; McDavid tops for clutch

By JOHN WAWROW  
AP Hockey Writer

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby continues being regarded by his peers as the NHL's most complete player, though he takes a backseat to Edmonton's Connor McDavid in having the best chance to produce in the clutch. Those are among the findings in the National Hockey League Players' Association releasing its sixth annual and eighth overall survey of players on Wednesday. Overall, 625 players participated in answering 14 questions.

Crosby, a two-time regular-season and two-time playoff MVP, earned just over 30% of the vote in the most complete player category which he's now won or shared first place for a fourth consecutive year.

Boston's Patrice Bergeron, with 18.8% of the vote, and Florida's Aleksander Barkov (17.1%), finished in the top three for a fourth straight year, with McDavid ranking fourth.

The tables turned when it

came to McDavid who is running away with the NHL points race earning 59.3% of the vote in who players would want next to them in a must-win situation, with Crosby finishing second (11%).



New York Rangers goaltender Igor Shesterkin, right, and Niko Mikkola, left, protect their net from Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Saturday, March 18, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

In other categories, for the second straight year, Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevski gained 314 votes as being the preferred choice among players on who they would want in net in a must-win situation. Colorado's Cale Makar, last year's Norris Trophy winner, was the runaway leader as top defenseman, earning nearly 64% of the vote, with Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman second (11%).

Edmonton's Leon Draisaitl was regarded as the NHL's best passer. Newly acquired New York Rangers forward Patrick Kane finished second in the best passer category, while being voted as the league's top stickhandler for a third straight year.

Dallas Stars veteran Joe Pavelski, with 21.4% of the vote, beat out the Rang-

ers' Chris Kreider (14.6%) as the player who affects the game most around the net. Barkov, a seven-time 20-goal scorer, was regarded as the league's most underrated player.

For a second straight year, Boston's Brad Marchand was voted as the person players least want to face, but want on their team.

As for the NHL's best ice surface, Montreal's Bell Centre won out for a fifth time with 35% of the vote, followed by Edmonton (14.7%), Winnipeg (10.3%), Minnesota (8.6%) and Vegas (6%).

And there was a split regarding which current or former women's players that NHLers would like to play alongside, with Canada's Marie-Philip Poulin gaining 27.9% of the vote, ahead of American Hilary Knight (20.5%). □



# World Baseball Classic keeps growing despite injury risks

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**MIAMI (AP)** — Shohei Ohtani's strikeout of Mike Trout, Trea Turner's go-ahead, eighth-inning grand slam against Venezuela, Japan's walk-off semifinal win and Mexico's comeback from a four-run deficit against Puerto Rico will be replayed over and over.

Edwin Díaz's season-ending knee injury and Jose Altuve's broken finger will be discussed all year, too. This year's World Baseball Classic left lasting memories, 47 games over two weeks that restored Japan's supremacy and reinforced Ohtani's unmatched ability while expanding the sport's global footprint.



Japan player Shohei Ohtani (16) celebrates with his teammates after defeating the United States in World Baseball Classic championship game, Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in Miami. Associated Press

While not an international fixation like soccer's World Cup, the event has grown though its five editions since launching in 2006. "This is kind of our Olympics.

We don't get that opportunity to really play wherever the Olympics are at," Kyle Schwarber said before the Americans lost to Japan 3-2 in Tuesday night's final,

when Ohtani fanned Trout to seal Japan's first title since 2009 and third overall. Baseball is no longer a permanent Olympic sport, and Samurai Japan beat a U.S. team stocked with minor leaguers for gold when baseball was temporarily restored at the previous Games.

Played in Miami, Phoenix, Tokyo and Taiwan, the star-studded WBC will finish with revenue of \$90 million to \$100 million, Major League Baseball said. Attendance of 1,306,414 was the tournament's highest, 20% over the 1,086,720 for 40 games in 2017. This year's semifinals on FS1 and Fox Deportes averaged 2.4 million viewers, up 96% from the semis in 2017, when the tournament was televised by MLB

Network and ESPN Deportes. "One of the things that was really important this time around was Fox stepping up to broadcast the games," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Nobody's a bigger fan of the MLB Network than I am, but when you have one of the major broadcasters step up and want the event, that's a huge deal." Concerns about player health have followed the tourney since its inception. Many MLB teams blocked pitchers from participating, wanting them to concentrate on preparing for the season's start. Injuries to Díaz and Altuve reinforced those concerns. But with MLB generating revenue and global interest from the tourney, and players eager to represent their home countries, the injury risks seem unlikely to slow the WBC's growth.

"We all care for each other and no one wants to get hurt," Francisco Lindor, Díaz's teammate on Team Puerto Rico and the New York Mets, told reporters Tuesday. "But we all love our countries and want to represent our countries. ... We have an opportunity to represent our countries and learn from our peers. It's amazing."

Japan drew three of the four most-watched WBC games ever back home going into the championship game, getting a 48.7 rating for the quarterfinal against Italy, 44.4 for the first-round game against South Korea and a 42.5 for the semifinal vs. Mexico. The figures represent the percentage of television households tuned to a telecast.

The team's victory sparked a nationwide celebration back home. The country's top circulating newspaper, Yomiuri, rolled out a special Wednesday afternoon edition for commuters, usually reserved for serious matters of state, late-breaking election news, or as it was last year — the assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "Japan, the World's No. 1," the headline read in Japanese. □

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